Trekking Expedition to the Twin Peaks of Abigumiii and Kainet by the Army Team

2160. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(ja) whether the Indian Army team has recently completed its trekking expedition to the Himalayan twin peaks of Abi-gamin and Kamet;

(b) if sc, whether this expedition is considered to be a major successful expedi tion in recent times; and

(c) whether the necessary precautionary measures had been taken by the Ministry of' Defence in carrying out this expedition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Regiment of Artillery expedition was mounted 'as part of their Golden Jubilee celebrations and w|as successfully completed.

(c) Yes, Sir. The expendition returned safely after completing their taBk.

Development of the Indigenous GTX Engine for the LCA

2161, SHRI SURESH KALMADI;
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress with regard to the development of an indigenous GTX engine for the LCA; and

(b) whether Government are going in for col'aboration for the KB 199 or the) F404 engine for the, LCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) A project on the demonstrator Model of the GTX Engine has been successfully completed. Full development of the GTX Engine is under progress. A variant of GTX to meet the LCA requirements is now being de> signed.

(b) Only a few engines from abroad are planned to be procured until our indigenous engine becomes available. Therefore the question of going in for collaboration at this stage does not arise.

Likely Submergence of Forest Land by Narmada Sagar Project

2162. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI; Will the, PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than forty thousand hectares of forest land is likely to be submerged if Narmada Sagar Project is implemented;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Nar-mada Sagar Project is likely to increase the irrigation potential only by 1,70,000 hectares; and

(c) what is Government's criterion of weighing forest loss against increase in irrigation potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI), (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This scheme would irrigate 1,41,000 ha. of land in Khargone and Khandwa Districts of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been prepared which provide for the comparative assessment of the forest and environmental losses against gains of development projects including irrigation

Harvesting of Wood in Himaclial Pradesh

2163. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantity of wood being harvested in Himachal Pra-

desh for the manutacture of packing cases is more than what is silviculturally permissible; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to prevent this un-scientific exploitation of forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

निरीक्षण निदेशालय में असैनिक अधिकारियों का तबादला

2164. **डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय** : क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रक्षा मंत्रालय के अधीन निरीक्षण निदेशालय में कार्यरत असैनिक अधिकारियों का तबादला अधिक से अधिक पांच वर्षों के अंतराल के बाद कर दिया जाता है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि निदेशालय के कानपुर स्थित कार्यालय में कार्यरत कुछ अधिकारियों को इस व्यवस्था के क्षेत्राधिकार से बाहर रखा गया है हालांकि वे वहां पर पिछले पच्चीस वर्षों से लगातार कार्यरत हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रक्षा उत्पादन और रक्षा पूर्ति विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुख राम) : (क) जी, हां, सिवाय उन कुछ मामलों के जिनमें प्रशासनिक या अनुकम्पा के आधार पर पांच वर्षों के बाद भी तबादला न करना आवश्यक होता है।

(ख) जी, हां, ऐसे कुछ अफसर हैं जिन्हें कानपुर में पांच वर्ष से अधिक समय हो गया है। परन्तु एक ही अफसर ऐसा है जो पच्चीस वर्षों से अधिक समय से कानपुर में कार्यरत है और उसको कानपुर से बाहर स्थानांतरित करने पर इस समय विचार किया जा रहा है।

(ग) कानपुर में स्थित अधिकांश स्थापनाएं, सामान्य भंडार वस्त्र तथा रसायनों से संबंधित काम करती हैं और इन दो विषयों से संबंधित अधिकांश पद कानपुर में हैं। इसलिए कानपुर से बारी-बारी स्थानांतरित किए जानेवाले अफसरों के मुकाबले अन्य स्टेशनों में उपयुक्त रिक्तियां उपलब्ध न होने के कारण इन अफसरों को नियमित रूप से स्थानांतरित करते रहना प्रशासनिक दृष्टि से कठिन हो जाता है।

Grounding of Mig-21 Aircraft

2165. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that because ol the aircraft accidents in quick succession in 1984 and 1985 involving MIG-21 aircraft, most of which aircnaft were from tho batch manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), over 300 Migs had to be grounded; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the main causes identified for the rash of Mig-21s the result of the checks carried on the fleet of Mig-21s that were grounded and the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Air Headquarters carried out special checks in one of the Mig-21 variants in 1985, as over-heating of the engine was noticed in some aircraft. Air Headquarters grounded these aircraft for a short period as part of preventive measures. This special check included both aircraft of Soviet and Hin. dustan Aeronautics Limited manufacture.

(b) A study team, which investigated this matter found :

(i) Evidence of over-heating in the rear fuselage area,

(ii) That such over-heating could result in fire and failure of controls in case hydraulic teaks bad occurred in the overheated zone.